

### EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

### REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION ADOPTED AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON MAY 21st, 1925.

The last annual General Meeting having been held so recently as October 23rd last a few introductory words may be desirable explaining the reason for holding this meeting in May. Members are aware that the General Meeting of the Corporation has been hitherto held annually in October. But the Corporation's financial year ends on March 31st and the accounts are audited to that date. The result has been that the accounts presented to the meeting in October are then already six months old and the Administrative Council decided that it would be preferable if they could be submitted to a meeting in May. The annual General Meeting will therefore be held in future in the third week of May.

### PERSONNEL OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.

The Council deeply regret to report the death since the last General Meeting of Mr. Joseph Cross, for whose valuable assistance as a member of both the Council and the Executive Committee, since the formation of the Corporation, they wish to record their deep indebtedness.

Under the terms of the Charter the bodies having power of nomination to the Council were asked to make such nominations afresh in February last, as their representatives had then held office for the maximum period of three years. Very few changes have in consequence been made in the personnel of the Council. Mr. J. E. Ashworth has been nominated by the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association in place of Mr. Addison and Mr. G. B. Zochonis has been nominated by the British Cotton Growing Association. Lt.-Comm. F. W. Astbury has taken the place of

Mr. J. H. Swallow, who has resigned, while Mr. J. C. Parker has been nominated in place of the late Mr. J. Cross. Dr. Ernest Goulding has been nominated to succeed Professor Dunstan as the nominee of the Imperial Institute, while Mr. J. H. Dimond, who has succeeded Mr. Canham as South African Trade Commissioner in this country, has also taken his place as the representative of the Union Government on the Council of the Corporation. The members who were co-opted to the former Administrative Council, together with Sir Francis Newton and Mr. Addison, have been co-opted to the present Council. In addition Mr. J. Duckworth, M.P. and Mr. J. Compton, M.P., have been co-opted on the nomination of the Lancashire Parliamentary Committee.

### FINANCE.

Copies of the Revenue and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the financial year ended March 31st, 1925, are printed at the end of this report. It will be seen from the Revenue and Expenditure Account that the sum received in dividends from the investments representing the Capital Grant amounted to just under £44,000, being somewhat smaller than the sum received in the previous financial year. This is accounted for partly by the sale of certain investments and consequent alteration of the dates of payment of the dividends on the new investments, and partly by the fact that the dividends on the investments that were sold were received without deduction of Income Tax.

Pending a decision as to the liability of the Corporation to pay Income Tax, the sum given above represents that actually received in dividends from the investments representing the Capital Grant irrespective of whether these were paid with or without previous deduction of Income Tax.

To place the Corporation's claim in order, Income Tax on the dividends received tax unpaid has been paid, a claim for repayment has been lodged for all tax deducted or paid, and a statement of the Corporation's claim for exemption is being prepared by their solicitors. The period covered by the accounts includes a full year's working of the Cotton Industry Act, with the result that the amount realised from the Levy amounted to £74,766. A sum of £3,030 was also received during the year under review as interest on investments made from income from this source.

The figure in the Balance Sheet for the excess of revenue over expenditure appears as £47,201. This does not, however, imply that this sum is a reserve or is available to meet future expenditure, for on the asset side of the Balance Sheet the sum entered as "Investments in respect of Revenue and Expenditure Account" includes, in addition to the investments of previous years, a sum of £23,151 which has been employed in the provision of capital for cotton-growing companies which are operating in South Africa while a final instalment of £10,000 will be payable shortly. The Council are of opinion that in certain countries the establishment of cotton-growing companies with the help of important interests will form a valuable means in the rapid development of the production of the raw material.

Turning now to the Revenue and Expenditure Account, the expanding scope of the Corporation's operations is reflected in the considerably increased expenditure during the financial year under review. Among other items it will be seen that £14,394 has been used in assisting in financing the erection of ginneries in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. Expenditure upon such objects as the supplementing of the agricultural staffs of the Colonies and the provision of experts in different branches of cotton growing, whether as scientific advisers or as managers of seed farms or in other capacities, unfortunately continues to be limited solely by the scarcity of suitably qualified men. particular it is found to be extremely difficult to obtain for any scientific or agricultural post men who have had say eight or ten years' experience and who, therefore, might reasonably command a moderate salary. This shortage is, of course, due to the war, which has affected precisely the men of this type and of such an age that they would have been completing their University training about the time that the war broke out. Men can be found with long and specialised experience, who are naturally all in good posts and can only be attracted to leave them by the payment of rather large salaries and compensation for loss of any pension rights to which they may have already become entitled. There are also, of course, men who have just completed their University and subsequent specialised training, many of them being the holders of Studentships from the Corporation. But the intermediate class is very scarce, and though the Corporation's Studentships undoubtedly form a valuable source from which the gap will eventually be filled, some few years must necessarily first elapse before these young men can have acquired experience of cotton sufficient to justify their inclusion in what has been called above the intermediate class.

Another new item on the expenditure side of the account is the cost of the Roadless Traction vehicle with trailer and light carts, and other expenses in connection with the experiments in the transport of cotton, by means of half-track vehicles, which the Corporation propose to carry out in Nigeria. Further reference to these experiments is made below.

### India.

It will be recollected that the Corporation undertook to arrange for spinning tests to be conducted on certain improved cottons supplied by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. These tests have been carried out by members of the Oldham Master Cotton Spinners' Association and the thanks of the Corporation are due to that body for the assistance they have been good enough to give in this matter. The results of the spinning tests were published in the April number of the Empire Cotton Growing Review and a supply of extra copies has been sent to the Indian Trade Commissioner for distribution at his discretion. A copy of the Empire Cotton Growing Review is sent to every spinning firm so that the results obtained with these improved Indian cottons will be brought to the notice of potential users in Lancashire.

At the conclusion of his visit to East Africa Colonel French proceeded to India. He arrived in Bombay on the 21st February, in time for the meeting of the Indian Central Cotton Committee which took place on February 23rd, 24th and 25th, and at which the Committee very kindly invited him to be present.

Subsequently he made an extensive, though necessarily hurried, journey through India and visited agricultural and experimental stations at Surat, Lyallpur, Dharwar and Coimbatore, where experiments connected with cotton cultivation are being carried out and different types of cotton are being improved by careful selection. He also visited the Agricultural Colleges at Lyallpur and Coimbatore and two large estates in the Punjab, including that of the B.C.G.A., Punjab, where an American type of cotton is being grown under irrigation on a large scale, the cultivators being tenants whose agricultural methods are organised and assisted by the landlord. The landlord also arranges for the marketing of the crop in bulk.

It is not possible in this report to enter into any details, but it is believed that Col. French's visit will be of real value to the Corporation, partly in strengthening the personal relations with the Indian Central Cotton Committee, the members of which showed him very great kindness and gave him much valuable, practical advice, and partly in enabling him to realise the methods by which the many problems and difficulties in cotton growing are in the process of being solved and overcome in India.

### AUSTRALIA.

It was reported at the last General Meeting that the Corporation had agreed to contribute a sum of £3,000 a year for a period of five years towards current expenditure that would be incurred in connection with the maintenance of experimental farms. A letter has been received expressing the thanks of the Commonwealth Government for this contribution, but no details are yet to hand concerning the organisations proposed. It is understood, however, that Mr. Evans has all the arrangements in hand and it is believed that by this time the experimental stations are already at work. Periodical reports will be furnished to the Corporation by the Commonwealth Government.

### SOUTH AFRICA.

The development that is taking place in South Africa is regarded by the Council as most satisfactory. The crop to be harvested in 1925 is estimated at approximately 20,000 bales,

as compared with 5,600 bales harvested last year. These figures indicate the widespread interest that is being taken in the extension of cotton cultivation, and a considerable further increase is hoped for next season. Mr. Milligan is to be congratulated both on the results so far achieved, and on the organisation which he is building up for future developments, including provision for the supply of improved seed and better conditions of marketing. At the same time Mr. Milligan has repeatedly laid stress on the remarkably sympathetic response of the Union Government, and of the officers of the Department of Agriculture in particular, to the efforts that the Corporation are making in South Africa. It is extremely gratifying to know that cordial relations exist between the Government officers and those of the Corporation, and the Council fully appreciate the whole-hearted co-operation which they are receiving from the Government of the Union.

The Executive Committee have already reported to Council that plant breeding work under Mr. Parnell is going on at Barberton, with a view to supplying a good medium-stapled variety which will be resistant so far as possible to the jassid. The needs of the middle veldt in respect of improved seed, are being cared for by Mr. Pullen, the Government Plant Breeder, at Rustenburg, whose chief object is to breed a variety for that district which will ripen before the first frost.

The Corporation have appointed two entomologists to work entirely on cotton pests in the Entomological Division of the Department of Agriculture, while a strong team of workers has been obtained to carry out experiments on soil chemistry.

Later in this report particulars are given of the Studentships which it has been decided to allocate this year to South Africa, with a view to strengthening the qualifications of junior officers of the Department of Agriculture and others interested in scientific cotton growing.

### SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

At the request of the Rhodesian Government the Corporation have undertaken to send a Plant Breeder to Southern Rhodesia and they have selected for this appointment Mr. I. G. Hamilton,

a former holder of one of the Corporation's Studentships, who is at present working under Mr. Evans in Queensland. Mr. Hamilton will work under the general direction of Mr. Cameron and will take up his duties in September next.

Communications received from Mr. Cameron, the Corporation's Cotton Specialist in Southern Rhodesia, show that urgent steps needed to be taken in the supply of ginneries if adequate facilities were to be forthcoming for ginning this year's crop. As the result of a conference between the High Commissioner in this country, the Corporation, and the British Cotton Growing Association arrangements were made for these three bodies to share equally in advancing funds for the necessary number of ginneries to meet the present demands. The High Commissioner has ascertained that three ginneries will be required in addition to those established by private enterprise. The three ginneries will, it is understood, be erected respectively at Gatooma, Bindura, and at a site to be selected in the Lomagundi district. The ginning machinery was shipped from this country on the 19th February.

### ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN.

At the last General Meeting it was reported that in consequence of the report by Sir John Russell and Dr. H. M. Leake on the organisation of scientific work bearing on agriculture in the Sudan the Corporation had undertaken to provide a Cotton Breeder so soon as a man with the necessary high qualifications could be found. They are pleased to be able to report that the appointment has now been accepted by Mr. M. A. Bailey, formerly head of the Botanical Staff of the Cotton Research Board, Giza. Mr. Bailey is returning to this country for a short period of intensive study leave at Cambridge and he will take up his appointment in the Sudan in August.

### UGANDA, KENYA, TANGANYIKA.

Colonel French, during the winter, visited East Africa on the invitation of the Government of Uganda and has sent in a report which is now in the Director's hands.

He was greatly impressed with the rich agricultural possibilities of the territory in the Lake Victoria basin and particularly with the prospects of cotton growing in Uganda. At present one of the principal difficulties in the way of further expansion is shortage of labour. This is the result partly of the great increase in cultivation in both Kenya and Uganda, partly of public works, such as the extension of the Uganda Railway and the new harbour works of Kilindini, partly because African labour is casual and therefore inefficient and wasteful, and partly because many of the natives of the Uganda Protectorate have become rich—from an African's point of view—by growing cotton during years of abnormally high prices and are therefore disinclined to work as hired labourers.

This shortage will probably necessitate more intensive cultivation and thus a higher yield of cotton per acre, the present yield being very low for so rich a soil and so favourable a climate as are found in Uganda.

Colonel French also visited the Mwanza District of Tanganyika and the Kavirondo District of Kenya. The former of these areas is very promising, but at present is far less developed in the matter of communications, administrative staff, etc., than any part of Uganda. The native population is, however, large and industrious and this area would probably become very rich agriculturally if capital were available to develop it. In the Kavirondo area the type of cotton is not as good as in Uganda or Mwanza and the cotton growing industry is in its infancy in this part of the Colony. The amount grown at present has no effect on the labour problem, but the settlers are naturally anxious regarding its possible future results as their own farms, and notably their coffee plantations, are demanding more and more labour, on the supply of which they are dependent for their prosperity.

Another area in which cotton could be grown is in the coastal area of Kenya and the Tana River Valley. The difficulty in these areas is the extreme backwardness of the natives who at present have no wants other than the barest necessities of life.

In all the above-mentioned areas the chief necessity, in the opinion of Colonel French, is for seed farms and for a more highly organised system of seed selection and distribution.

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When Mr. Sampson was in this country in October last he attended a meeting of the East African Sub-Committee, at which he drew attention to the necessity for providing an extra crop which could be grown at a profit to serve as a rotation crop with cotton. At present a rotation of crops is seldom practised because the high railway rates on maize, which would be the most suitable crop for the purpose, make its cultivation for export uneconomical. The result is that the yield of the cotton crop has suffered through inability to practise sound farming methods. Early this year it was announced that the freight on maize on the Trans-Zambesi Railway would be reduced to 20s. a ton and it is hoped that this will make it possible for first-quality maize to be exported from Nyasaland, at a profit to the growers.

Mr. McEwen, formerly assistant to the Corporation's Cotton Specialist in Tanganyika Territory, has been transferred to Nyasaland.

### NIGERIA.

At the February meeting of Council it was reported that proposals had been received from the Director of Agriculture for the establishment of cotton seed farms in Nigeria, with a request that the Corporation would assist the scheme financially and provide the necessary staff. The desirability for providing means for ensuring that as pure seed as possible is distributed to native cultivators is emphasised by the fact that the yields per acre in Northern Nigeria, where cotton of the American type is now established, is very low. The Corporation have agreed to the Director of Agriculture's suggestion, but it is regretted that their efforts so far to find an experienced man to take charge of the first seed farm have not been successful. They are still continuing their enquiries and will do their utmost to provide the staff required. but they regard it as essential that supervision of the farm should be in competent hands to ensure its success, since the provision of pure seed is of the highest importance.

### Sierra Leone.

Experiments have been carried out by the Agricultural Department with Allen's long staple cotton and the quality is reported to be excellent but, unfortunately, the yield per acre

has been very small indeed. It is suggested by the Agricultural Department that this may have been due to the crop having been planted too early, so that the bolls opened during the rainy season. Experiments on later planting will be tried next season. The Chiefs of the Northern Provinces have asked for seed again next year, in spite of the disappointing results last season, and the Governor also expresses his belief that it will be possible, by means of careful selection work, to improve considerably the native Quande variety.

The ginnery at Boia, presented by the British Cotton Growing Association, was opened in December last.

### GOLD COAST.

At the request of the Governor the Corporation arranged for Mr. Faulkner, Director of Agriculture in Nigeria, to pay a visit in order to report on the possibility of cotton production in Togoland. In his report Mr. Faulkner points out that although the area visited by him would probably be suitable for cotton growing so far as climate and soil are concerned, the population is very sparse and there might be difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of water for an increased population. He is of opinion that the irrigation works that had been tentatively suggested would involve an almost prohibitive capital outlay.

### Manager and Manager Figs.

At the request of the Fiji Government, Mr. Evans, the Corporation's representative in Queensland, paid a visit to the Islands to report on the possibilities of developing cotton growing there. His report contains many valuable suggestions which are now under the consideration of the Executive Committee. Mr. Evans suggests that Sea Island, Durango, and Meade should be the most promising varieties for trial in Fiji, but subsequent letters state that the Durango has not done well on an experimental scale. The Cotton Inspector favours Sea Island, which is the principal variety now grown there, as the most hopeful variety, but adds that Pima, with which he planted a small area, has also done quite well. In his report Mr. Evans advocates that a cotton specialist should be appointed and that he should train demonstrators locally, to advise the peasant cultivators.

### STUDENTSHIPS.

The lack of men adequately trained to act as agricultural officers in the colonies and dependencies has always constituted a serious obstacle to the rapid development of cotton growing. The Corporation, and before them the Empire Cotton Growing Committee of the Board of Trade, fully recognized this fact and every year since 1010 Studentships have been awarded to enable suitably qualified men to be trained in research methods, or to take advanced courses of instruction in those subjects that are of special importance to cotton growing. By means of these Studentships 19 men have already been trained, while 16 are in training this year. Of the 19 who have completed their training 9 have received appointments under the Corporation, 3 hold posts under the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, and 5 have received appointments under the Colonial Office in Nigeria, Uganda and Iraq. Nevertheless, there is still a shortage of well trained agriculturists and scientific specialists, such as entomologists and mycologists, and the Executive Committee have accordingly, for the second year in succession, put no limit to the number of Studentships to be offered, though they have stipulated definitely that the standard required shall in no way be lowered and that Studentships shall only be given to thoroughly qualified candidates. Two Senior and two Junior Studentships have been allocated this year to men in South Africa who will be selected by Mr. Milligan on behalf of the Corporation.

Mr. Milligan reports that the two Senior Students whom he recommends for appointment have been working during this season with Mr. Parnell, the Plant Breeder at Barberton, and with Mr. Pullen, the Plant Breeder at Rustenburg. Their Studentships will be tenable at The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, and on their return to South Africa they will take up posts in the Cotton Division of the Department of Agriculture. The two Junior Students have not yet been selected. They will spend their Studentship year in South Africa, probably working under the two Plant Breeders.

It is gratifying to report that the Colonial Office, realising that the men appointed hitherto to the Agricultural Departments of the Colonies and Protectorates have not in all cases possessed as full qualifications as are desirable if the work of those Departments is to be thoroughly effective, have appointed a strong committee, under the Chairmanship of Lord Milner, to report on the status, pay and qualifications of officers of the Agricultural Departments. The Corporation look forward with the greatest interest to the publication of that Committee's report, which may possibly contain far-reaching recommendations. In their evidence before the Committee the representatives of the Corporation were emphatic in the view that the qualifications required of candidates for the Colonial Agricultural Departments were frequently insufficient, and that the pay and prospects of the service in general were wholly inadequate. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the Committee's Report will result in the conditions of the service being put on a more satisfactory basis.

### RESEARCH.

At the December Meeting members of the Council learned that the question of the establishment of a Central Cotton Research Station was being carefully investigated by the Executive Committee and that, in consequence of a report from Dr. Leake, the Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, Professor Farmer, accompanied by the Secretary, were about to visit Trinidad to ascertain its suitability as a site for a Cotton Research Station. The result of their tour was that they fully confirm Dr. Leake's view that although Trinidad, as a whole, is less suited to cotton growing on a commercial scale than to other tropical products, there is a tract of land in the immediate neighbourhood of the College which is particularly well-suited to the experimental cultivation of the crop. Professor Farmer's and Mr. Killby's report is now about to be carefully considered by the Executive Committee.

### MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.

It will be remembered that it was reported at the last Annual General Meeting that the Executive Committee had adopted the recommendation of the Mechanical Transport Sub-Committee that two experimental "track" vehicles should be sent for trial in Nigeria. The Mechanical Transport Sub-Committee decided that the vehicles should undergo a trial over a course of about 1,000

miles in England before they were despatched to Nigeria, in order to ascertain and rectify any small faults that became manifest after the vehicles had covered a considerable mileage.

With the kind consent of the Aldershot Command a course of forty miles, over open and sandy country, was mapped out, which included several steep hills. The Guy Roadless Traction vehicle has now completed its trial, and after it has been overhauled by the makers, it will be shipped to Nigeria. There has been considerable delay in the delivery of the Burford Kegresse 2-ton lorry, as Messrs. Burford were unable to secure some of the necessary parts of the Kegresse attachment. This vehicle is now about to start on its trial at Aldershot. A driver mechanic has been engaged to go out to Nigeria in charge of the vehicles, in the person of Mr. S. W. Darker. Mr. Darker has had some ten years' experience of mechanical transport in Eastern Africa, including service with the East African Transport Corps during the war in German East Africa.

The Corporation is indebted to the Government of Nigeria for their offer to allow the departments concerned to co-operate in ensuring that an adequate test shall be made of these vehicles when they arrive in the Colony.

### THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION (1924).

Since the last General Meeting the Exhibition at Wembley has been closed and it therefore has now to be reported that the total nett cost of the raw cotton exhibit amounted to £4,617, of which the Corporation's share was £1,749. The four exhibiting bodies, namely the Corporation, the British Cotton Growing Association, and the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations have decided not to exhibit again this year. The collection of samples of the various types of cotton grown within the Empire have been preserved intact and presented to the British Cotton Industry Research Association at Didsbury, where it will be available for examination by those interested in Empire-grown cottons.

### THE EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

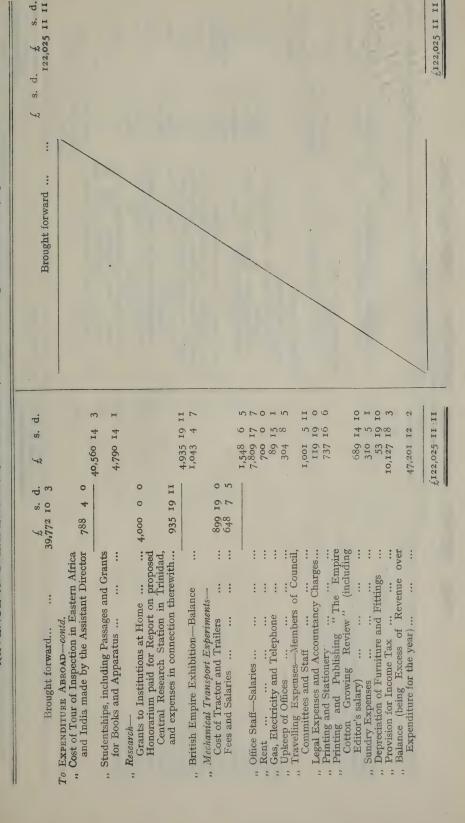
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, Year ended 31st March, 1925.

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### THE EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, Year ended 31st March, 1925—continued.

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### THE EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st March, 1925.

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ASSETS. FURNITURE AND FITTINGS AT COST	INVESTMENTS AT COST— Capital Grant Revenue and Expenditure Account	SUNDRY DEBTORS	Cash at Bankers— Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd., Manchester Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd., London British Overseas Bank	Cash in hand—London and Abroad  THE ASSETS OF THE CORPORATION ALSO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING, THE COST OF WHICH HAS BEEN CHARGED TO REVENUE:  Tractor and Trailers for Transport	Experiments	Amount advanced to Spelonken (Transvaal) Cotton Syndicate, Ltd., on account of purchase of Giming.	Machinery and election of chinicity		
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CAPITAL GRANT from Imperial Government	Remark Carlots Repaired at 31st March, 1924 95,973 11 5 Excess of Income over Expenditure, Year ended 31st March, 1925 47,201 12 2								

We have audited the above Balance Sheet and the Revenue and Expenditure Account, and certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with. We report to the members that in our opinion the accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Corporation's affairs as shown by the books of the Corporation.

(Signed) DAVID SMITH, GARNETT & CO., CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, MANCHESTER,

# EMPIRE COTTON CROPS FOR SIX YEARS 1918-24 EXCLUDING INDIA

### IN BALES OF 400 lbs.

1924-25. Estimates.	55,286  30,000  170,000  3,000  3,000  20,000  4,000  25,000  2,155  433  2,200  300	350,374	Percentage Increase 40·8.
1923–24.	47,652 25,534 128,604 1,653 3,000 1,650 11,434 8,730 11,850 11,100 1,100	248,731	Percentage Increase 47·2.
1922–23.	28,306 15,811 88,046 1,200 4,036 1,02 1,02 7,175 6,523 5,254 1,505 193 300 83	168,942	Percentage Increase 48·2.
1921–22.	24,074 15,096 48,290 4417 5,422 7,327 7,327 2,740 4,113 3,140 60	113,937	Percentage Decrease 31·4.
1920-21.	30,519 30,000 81,365 4,615 100 7,500 2,923 4,833 2,687 2,687 2,687 2,666	166,221	Percentage Increase 63·1.
1919–20.	23,160 16,200 47,694 1000 2,026 35 35 3,325 3,325 343	101,863	Percentage Increase 24·0.
1918–19.	15,997 17,500 36,530 100 2,591 — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	82,220	
COUNTRY.	Sudan Gold Coast Ugeria Uganda Kenya Nyasaland Northern Rhodesia Tanganyika South Africa West Indies Cyprus Malta Iraq Fiji Ceylon		

<sup>\*</sup> No estimates as yet received.

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